Self-reliance in Oilseeds

*350. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the target set and the actual production of oilseeds in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any possibility to get more production of oilseeds from non-traditional States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to make the country self-reliant in the oilseeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Statewise production targets and achievements of oilseeds during the last three years is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) Efforts are being made to increase oilseeds production by encouraging the cultivation in non-traditional areas especially Himalayan areas and North Eastern States.

(d) To make the country self-reliant in oilseeds, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is in implementation in 23 States covering 381 selected districts to increase the production of oilseeds. Under the programme, various incentives by way of subsidies are being provided on critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, minikits, rhyzobium culture, gypsum/pyrite, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment, sprinkler sets etc. In addition, frontline and general demonstrations are organised on farmers' fields to transfer the production technology.

In the Ninth Plan, there is a proposal to have a crash programme for seed production of groundnut and soyabean to augment the oilseed production. A seed bank scheme for all crops including oilseeds is also proposed for implementation in the Ninth Plan.

In addition to the above, action is being taken to promote the cultivation of oilseeds in new and non-traditional areas and oilseeds of tree origin.

Statement

State-wise production targets and achievements of Oilseeds during the last three years.

(In lakh tonnes)

S.No.	State	1996-97		1997-98		1998-99 (Adv. Est.)	
		Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment	Target	Achieve-ment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24.75	23.96	29.61	15.01	30.50	22.82
2.	Assam	1.84	1.60	1.85	1.74	1.35	2.16
3.	Bihar	2.06	1.51	4.42	1.66	4.55	1.60
4.	Gujarat	28.50	38.09	31.85	38.24	33.70	41.83
5.	Haryana	8.08	10.05	9.70	4.23	10.20	9.21
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.50	0.48	0.50	0.48	0.50	0.63
7.	Karnataka	17.87	17.56	17.60	12.58	18.05	16.30
8.	Madhya Pradesh	46.42	50.94	52.90	57.74	58.35	56.56
9.	Maharashtra	21.15	23.96	25.48	17.34	26.85	22.60
10.	Orissa	7.38	1.67	6.06	2.07	6.20	1.97

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Punjab	2.71	2.84	3.33	2.17	3.35	2.15
12.	Rajasthan	30.17	35.30	32.16	32.96	34.30	38.76
13.	Tamil Nadu	16.35	15.15	18.00	18.80	18.70	17.75
14.	Uttar Pradesh	15.64	15.39	16.15	10.06	17.00	13.04
15.	West Bengal	4.68	4.30	4.70	3.88	4.80	4.66
16.	Others	1.90	1.05	0.80	1.09	0.90	0.95
	ALL-INDIA	230.00	243.85	255.00	220.15	270.00	252.99

Fire in ONGC gas well at Bombay High

*351. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out on 12.3.99 at an ONGC's gas well on Bombay High;

(b) if so, the estimated losses suffered as a result thereof and whether the services of experts, particularly from abroad were sought to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and total expenditure incurred on such foreign services; and

(d) the exact cause of the fire in ONGC's well on Bombay High and the steps taken to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The losses could be quantified only after the fire is extinguished. The services of international experts viz., M/s. Cudd Pressure Control, Inc., USA were sought to quench the fire and to control the well. The provisional expenditure incurred on engaging the foreign services upto 06.04.99 is approximately Rs. 2,63,88,600/-. The expenditure in quenching the fire and controlling the well including the fee of foreign experts, besides the repair loss on damage to platform and rig, etc., will be reimbursed by the Insurance Company.

(d) During the repair operations on well # B-121-B with the help of rig Sagar Ratna, heavy build-up of pressure was observed in another well # C. While action to control pressure in this well was being taken, like misbehavior was noticed in well # D accompanied by gushing of high intensity mud and uncontrolled flow of gas. The uncontrolled flow of gas from well # D caught fire on 12th March, 1999.

ONGC has constituted a high level inquiry committee headed by ex-CMD of Oil India Ltd. to ascertain the factors leading to this accident, the lapses, if any,. and the steps required to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee is to submit the report by 15th April, 1999.

Transfer of Government Officials

*352. SHRIMATI JAYAPARDA NAHATA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any time limit for its officials to remain posted at one place in the Ministries/Departments etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether it is a fact that those orders are not being followed in letter and spirit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and